

# Verbatim Transcript of Monthly Council Meeting

## Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

August 17, 2021



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WASHINGTON STATE  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL  
August 17, 2021  
Lacey, Washington  
1:30 p.m.

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Virtual Monthly Meeting  
Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

DATE TAKEN: AUGUST 17, 2021

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

1                                   A P P E A R A N C E S

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3 Councilmembers:

- 4 KATHLEEN DREW, Chair
- 5 KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce
- 6 ROB DENGEL, Department of Ecology
- 7 LENNY YOUNG, Department of Natural Resources
- 8 STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation Commission
- 9 MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish & Wildlife

10 Assistant Attorney General:

11 JON THOMPSON

12

Local Government and Optional State Agencies for the  
Goose Prairie Project, Department of Transportation:

13 BILL SAURIOL

14

EFSEC Staff:

15

- 16 SONIA BUMPUS
- 17 JOAN OWENS
- 18 AMI HAFKEMEYER
- 19 AMY MOON
- 20 KYLE OVERTON
- 21 JOE WOOD
- 22 SEAN CHISHOLM

23

24 Also Present:

- 25 MARK MILLER, Chehalis Generation
- CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy Center
- JENNIFER GALBRAITH, PSE Horse Heaven
- MARSHALL SCHMITT, Columbia Generating Station
- OWEN HURD, Columbia Solar
- ERIC MELBARDIS, Kittitas Valley

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1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; AUGUST 17, 2021

2 1:30 P.M.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

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6 CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is  
7 Kathleen Drew, Chair of the Energy Facility Site  
8 Evaluation Council, and we are now beginning our August  
9 monthly meeting.

10 Ms. Owens, will you call the roll, please?

11 MS. OWENS: Department of Commerce?

12 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, present.

13 MS. OWENS: Department of Ecology?

14 Department of Fish and Wildlife?

15 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

16 MS. OWENS: Department of Natural Resources?

17 MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, present.

18 MS. OWENS: Utilities and Transportation

19 Commission?

20 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

21 MS. OWENS: Local Government and Optional  
22 State Agencies for the Goose Prairie Project, Department  
23 of Transportation?

24 MR. SAURIOL: Bill Sauriol, present.

25 MS. OWENS: For the Horse Heaven Project,

1 Department of Agriculture?

2 Benton County?

3 Assistant Attorney General?

4 MR. THOMPSON: This is Jon Thompson,  
5 present.

6 MS. OWENS: Administrative Law Judge  
7 Johnette Sullivan?

8 Adam Torem?

9 For EFSEC Staff, Sonia Bumpus?

10 MS. BUMPUS: Joan, I'm present.

11 MS. OWENS: Ami Hafkemeyer?

12 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.

13 MS. OWENS: Amy Moon?

14 MS. MOON: Amy Moon, present.

15 MS. OWENS: Kyle Overton?

16 MR. OVERTON: Kyle Overton, here.

17 MS. OWENS: Joe Wood?

18 MR. WOOD: Joe Wood, present.

19 MS. OWENS: Sean Chisholm?

20 MR. CHISHOLM: Sean Chisholm, present.

21 MS. OWENS: Patty Betts?

22 MS. BETTS: Present.

23 MS. OWENS: Stew Henderson?

24 Stephen Posner?

25 Is our court reporter on the line?

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes. This is Tayler  
2 Garlinghouse, present.

3 CHAIR DREW: And I do see Mr. Dengel from  
4 Department of Ecology on my list here now.

5 MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, present.

6 MS. OWENS: Great.

7 Moving on to operational updates, Kittitas  
8 Valley Wind Project?

9 Wild Horse Wind Power Project?

10 MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith, present.

11 MS. OWENS: Grays Harbor Energy Center?

12 (Unintelligible)

13 MS. OWENS: Was that Eric Melbardis I just  
14 heard?

15 I'll try again for Grays Harbor Energy  
16 Center?

17 MR. SHERIN: Chris Sherin is on the line for  
18 Grays Harbor Energy Center.

19 MS. OWENS: Thank you.

20 Chehalis Generation Facility?

21 Columbia Generating Station?

22 MR. SCHMITT: Marshall Schmitt, present.

23 MS. OWENS: Columbia Solar?

24 MR. HURD: Owen Hurd, present.

25 MS. OWENS: Counsel for The Environment,

1 Bill Sherman?

2 Chair, there is a quorum for the EFSEC  
3 Council and the Goose Prairie and Horse Heaven Council.

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

5 Moving on to our proposed agenda. We have  
6 the proposed agenda before us. Is there a motion to  
7 adopt the agenda?

8 MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster.  
9 I'll move we adopt the agenda.

10 CHAIR DREW: Second?

11 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, second.

12 CHAIR DREW: Are there any proposed changes  
13 or comments?

14 Hearing none, all those in favor of adopting  
15 the agenda, please say "aye."

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIR DREW: Opposed? The agenda is  
18 adopted.

19 Moving on to the minutes. We have the  
20 meeting minutes from the July 20th, 2021 monthly  
21 meeting. You have them in draft form and have had a  
22 chance to review them. Is there a motion to approve the  
23 minutes?

24 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, move to approve the  
25 minutes from July 20th, 2021.

1 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, second.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

3 I do have a couple of minor corrections that  
4 I wanted to see changed in the minutes. On page 23,  
5 from between lines 17 and 24, there was conversation  
6 with Ami Hafkemeyer, and in the minutes referred to as  
7 A-m-y. She is -- spells her name A-m-i, so I would like  
8 to see that corrected on page 23.

9 And then on page 25, on line 10, there's a  
10 reference to the transmission work group and the SEPA.  
11 Unfortunately, I did not explain what I was saying in  
12 the words, but this is actually not S-E-P-A but C-E-S-A,  
13 and refers to the Compatible Energy Siting Assessment,  
14 which is a contract which we are working with the  
15 Department of Commerce on, funded by the Department of  
16 Defense. So if we can change the letters there from  
17 S-E-P-A to C-E-S-A, I'd appreciate it.

18 Are there any other changes or corrections?

19 Hearing none, all those in favor of  
20 approving the minutes as amended, please say "aye."

21 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

22 CHAIR DREW: Opposed? Minutes are approved  
23 as amended. Thank you all.

24 Moving on to our facility updates. We will  
25 start with Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.



1                   MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
2 EFSEC Council, and Staff. This is Eric Melbardis with  
3 EDP Renewables for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power  
4 Project. During the month of July, I had nothing  
5 nonroutine to report. The only thing out of the  
6 ordinary was my annual TAC report, TAC update email that  
7 was sent, although that is an annual routine function of  
8 our project.

9                   CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Mr. Melbardis. I'm  
10 glad you're on the line. I did have a question for you.  
11 I see on your report that it was a capacity factor of  
12 63.43 percent.

13                   MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, we had --

14                   CHAIR DREW: I'm not sure I -- I'm not sure  
15 I've ever seen the facility at that high a capacity  
16 level.

17                   MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, it's been quite a windy  
18 summer season for us. We've been near capacity the  
19 whole time. And it's a good kind of wind because it's  
20 not too high where it stops our turbines so...

21                   CHAIR DREW: Great.

22                   MR. MELBARDIS: Yes, we're doing well.  
23 Doing well here.

24                   CHAIR DREW: Great. Thank you.

25                   Moving on to Wild Horse Wind and Solar

1 Facility.

2 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew,  
3 Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Jennifer Galbraith  
4 with Puget Sound Energy at the Wild Horse Wind Facility.  
5 The only nonroutine item I have from the month of July  
6 is that the renewable energy center or our visitor's  
7 center opened to the public on July 1st. Additional  
8 safety protocols have been implemented based on  
9 Washington State and L&I guidelines as well as specific  
10 PSE policies regarding COVID-19 to provide a safe  
11 environment for our employees, guests, and others that  
12 visit the facility.

13 CHAIR DREW: Are you requiring that guests  
14 wear masks when they're in the facility?

15 MS. GALBRAITH: We are strongly recommending  
16 that in spite of the -- your vaccination status, that  
17 you wear a mask, yes. We are requiring -- or not  
18 requiring, but strongly recommending it at this time.

19 CHAIR DREW: Unfortunately, things have  
20 changed since July 1st when we thought they were going  
21 to continue to open.

22 MS. GALBRAITH: Yeah, they sure have. And  
23 we have our -- reduced the size of our tour groups in  
24 half, so...

25 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Thank you for what

1 you do to keep people safe too.

2 MS. GALBRAITH: Thank you.

3 CHAIR DREW: Now, Chehalis Generation  
4 Facility, Mr. Miller?

5 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
6 Councilmembers, and Staff. I apologize for being late,  
7 I was just getting off another call.

8 I do have one nonroutine comment to add,  
9 and -- and I talked briefly with Staff about water  
10 purchase for electric generation purposes here at the  
11 Chehalis Generation Facility. Our EFSEC permit  
12 conditions require that we constrain or limit those  
13 purchases when the Chehalis River flow as measured at  
14 the USGS Grand Mound Monitoring Station reaches 165  
15 cubic feet per second or less.

16 Now, we ceased purchasing water from them in  
17 early July, July 8, and then the USGS recalibrated their  
18 equipment and it changed that we could have been taking  
19 water, but that was the last -- you know, that is the  
20 information that we're required to -- to follow is that  
21 information from the monitoring station.

22 And then the river flow as of today is still  
23 around 111 cubic feet per second. So we still haven't  
24 purchased water for the month of July and then now  
25 almost three quarters, so two-thirds of the way through

1 the month of August.

2           So our water supply that we maintain on site  
3 is -- is going to hopefully get us by so we have some  
4 good rain in the Chehalis River Basin because it is a  
5 stream -- or it's a rain-fed and -- and the system is  
6 not a snow melt system. And so we are getting kind of  
7 close and we -- we hopefully will get some rain soon. I  
8 know the impacts for the West in general are significant  
9 that surprisingly, for us here in Southwest Washington,  
10 it is impacting us as well.

11           So we're still generating around the clock.  
12 We still have water reserve on hand, and we're just  
13 looking forward to some rain.

14           CHAIR DREW: So thank you for that more  
15 detailed report, because I was -- I did want to ask you  
16 a question about that. Have you ever been in this  
17 situation and what happens if you do reach a point where  
18 you need water but can't draw from the river? Or from  
19 the -- I'm sorry, not from the river, but purchase from  
20 the City of Chehalis?

21           MR. MILLER: So we have had periods of time  
22 in the last eight years where we have not been able to  
23 purchase water from the City of Chehalis. The City of  
24 Chehalis takes their water from the north fork of the  
25 Newaukum River, which is a tributary to the Chehalis.

1 And we've gone, you know, maybe three weeks, but this is  
2 the longest stretch, you know, since the plant was built  
3 where we have not taken water.

4 And that's why in the original permit, the  
5 amount of water storage that was built on site was why  
6 it was built, some of those reasons. And also why we  
7 imply the use of air-cooled condensers versus the  
8 evaporative cooling that typical thermal generating  
9 facilities would have.

10 So our facility, you know, was built more  
11 for inherent region, and people sometimes are confused  
12 by that. But the primary purpose of that was to manage,  
13 you know, water taken from the Chehalis, which impacted  
14 the salmonoid species and -- and other, you know,  
15 concerns that -- that were discussed and reviewed when  
16 the permit was first issued.

17 It's quite a bit different than the permit  
18 that's -- that was originally for the Satsop Washington  
19 Public Power Supply Nuclear Station, where they have the  
20 large, evaporative cooling towers there and the rainy  
21 wells, et cetera. And I believe that they use  
22 evaporative cooling down there for combined cycle  
23 plants. But our permit is definitely more constrained  
24 than what you can take from, you know, ultimately goes  
25 into the Chehalis River.

1           The City of Chehalis has adequate water  
2 supply, they could sell us more, but our permit is very  
3 specific that when the river flow at Grand Mound reaches  
4 165 cubic feet per second, we can no longer purchase  
5 water.

6           And I kind of started some conversations  
7 with the EFSEC Staff. You know, there may be interest  
8 by the company and EFSEC to, you know, look at alternate  
9 gauging systems and maybe could be more reflective of,  
10 you know, what's available in the basin and for the City  
11 of Chehalis. You know, we are, I believe, the second  
12 largest consumer of water from the City, and I think  
13 National Frozen Foods, which is a seasonal operation  
14 where they harvest the peas and corn and wash them and  
15 freeze them locally.

16           So we're a big user and big customer for the  
17 City, but we've also managed to pretty -- pretty well  
18 our use of water with, you know, these air cool  
19 condensers. We manage our leaks and -- our leaks in the  
20 heat recovery steam generators the best we can doing  
21 tube repairs. We've had a couple short outages that we  
22 took early this summer to make sure that we weren't  
23 consuming more water than, you know, what the original  
24 designs called for.

25           So we're being very efficient, it's -- the

1 best we can within -- what's starting to age of the  
2 thermal combined cycle plant.

3 That was wordy.

4 CHAIR DREW: No, I appreciate this whole  
5 explanation and discussion, because in reading your  
6 report, you know, those were the questions that came to  
7 my mind.

8 Councilmembers, are there any other  
9 questions or comments?

10 Thank you, Mr. Miller.

11 MR. MILLER: All right. Thank you.

12 CHAIR DREW: Moving on to Grays Harbor  
13 Energy Center, Mr. Sherin?

14 MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
15 Councilmembers, EFSEC Staff. Chris Sherin, the plant  
16 manager at Grays Harbor Energy Center. For the month --  
17 reporting period of July, I have no nonroutine items to  
18 report.

19 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

20 Columbia Generating Station and Washington  
21 Nuclear Project 1/4, Mr. Schmitt.

22 MR. SCHMITT: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
23 EFSEC Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Marshall  
24 Schmitt reporting for Energy Northwest. I only have a  
25 few items for the month of July.

1           First, I would like to point out our  
2     quarterly environmental compliance audit was completed  
3     July 21st. Our next audit is scheduled for October  
4     2021.

5           Second, we have submitted our proposed minor  
6     revisions to the Columbia Generating Station Groundwater  
7     Quality Assurance Project Plan, and we have requested  
8     EFSEC approval of those revisions by  
9     October 31st, 2021, if at all possible.

10          Finally, I have an organizational note to  
11     make. The Energy Northwest executive board has named  
12     Robert Schuetz as the new agency CEO. Prior to his  
13     appointment as CEO, Mr. Schuetz was the site vice  
14     president.

15          That is all that I have to report.

16          CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

17          Are there any questions from Councilmembers?

18          Moving on to the Columbia Solar Projects,  
19     Mr. Hurd?

20          MR. HURD: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
21     Councilmembers, and EFSEC Staff. This is Owen Hurd from  
22     TUUSSO Energy reporting on the Columbia Solar Projects.  
23     The status that were completed to date, we've completed  
24     driving piles on Penstemon, the first of the three  
25     projects, and completed our medium voltage underground



1 work. Puget Sound Energy has also recently begun work  
2 upon point of interconnection.

3 From the second project, Camas, pile driving  
4 is now underway and equipment area pads are also in  
5 progress.

6 On Urtica, we've completed our construction  
7 surveys for wrapping up the final pieces of those, and  
8 working on underground work present.

9 So environmental compliance, Golder was out  
10 on site for inspection today, and Golder and Northwest  
11 Code Inspections are ongoing with no issues to report.

12 Safety compliance, we're having our daily  
13 safety tailgate meetings. And wildfire smoke and high  
14 heat has been an issue recently. We have N-95 masks on  
15 site and we're taking additional water breaks based on  
16 different heat levels.

17 Changes that are upcoming, we will continue  
18 to work on the planting plans, and the torque tubes are  
19 just now arriving, so that will be the next stage of the  
20 racking.

21 That's all I have to report.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

23 Are there questions from Councilmembers?

24 Thank you.

25 Next item on our agenda is -- are we talking

1 about the public informational?

2 MR. OVERTON: Yes, Chair Drew. This is Kyle  
3 Overton --

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

5 MR. OVERTON: -- site specialist for  
6 Columbia Solar. I'll provide an update on the SCA  
7 amendment request.

8 So on July 28th, EFSEC received a request to  
9 amend five of the site certificate agreements for the  
10 Columbia Solar Projects. The request is for terminating  
11 the agreements for the Typha and Fumaria sites and  
12 transferring ownership of the Camas, Penstemon, and  
13 Fumaria sites.

14 Additionally, a request was received to  
15 transfer overall control of the project from TUUSSO  
16 Energy to Greenbacker Renewable Energy.

17 Per WAC 463-66-100, the transfer of an SCA  
18 requires a public informational meeting to be held,  
19 which is scheduled for this evening from 5:00 p.m. to  
20 7:00 p.m. Details on the meeting were provided via our  
21 mailing list, the local paper, which is the Daily  
22 Record, and is available on our website.

23 The current certificate holder will be  
24 presenting an overview of the request, and EFSEC Staff  
25 will be speaking to the amendment process during the

1 meeting, and then time will be provided at the end of  
2 the meeting for the public to make comment. And our  
3 online comment database will also be opened for the  
4 duration of the meeting as well.

5 Are there any questions?

6 CHAIR DREW: Is the comment database that  
7 will be opened later or is it open now?

8 MR. OVERTON: I believe it starts at 5:00  
9 p.m., but I think Joan might be able to speak to that.

10 MS. OWENS: That's correct. It starts at  
11 5:00 p.m.

12 CHAIR DREW: Okay. So it's open during the  
13 time of the public meeting?

14 MS. OWENS: That's correct.

15 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

16 So there will be presentations and those  
17 will also be then posted on our website should anyone  
18 want to look at those at a later date?

19 MR. OVERTON: Correct.

20 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Yeah. But anyone who is  
21 interested is welcome to join us at 5 o'clock today and  
22 to make comments about the amendment, which includes  
23 eliminating the -- dropping the two sites and also  
24 change of ownership. So we do welcome participation.

25 Thank you, Mr. Overton.

1 MR. OVERTON: Thank you.

2 CHAIR DREW: Desert Claim Project update,  
3 Ms. Moon?

4 MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council Chair  
5 Drew and Councilmembers. For the record, this is Amy  
6 Moon providing an update on the Desert Claim Project.  
7 EFSEC Staff continue to coordinate with Desert Claim;  
8 however, currently there are no project updates.

9 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

10 And now we move to Horse Heaven Wind Farm,  
11 Ms. Moon.

12 MS. MOON: All right. Thank you again.  
13 Good afternoon, Chair Drew, Councilmembers, on the new  
14 project, Horse Heaven. This is Amy Moon again. EFSEC  
15 Staff continue to work with the applicant and our  
16 contractor, Golder, on data requests. The response to  
17 Data Request No. 2 was received on August 16th and is  
18 under review. Data Request No. 3 was submitted to the  
19 applicant July 22nd and a response is due August 23rd.

20 This request asks for information and  
21 clarification on noise, wildlife, and recreation. The  
22 data requests inform the SEPA scoping process and,  
23 again, SEPA is the State Environmental Policy Act. So  
24 the data requests inform the SEPA scoping process as  
25 well as preparation of the draft environmental impact

1 statement, which is also known as an EIS.

2 Part of the data gathering effort has  
3 included meetings with EFSEC, EFSEC SEPA contractor,  
4 which is Golder, and the applicant to discuss and  
5 clarify each data request.

6 The responses to the three data requests are  
7 an important part of preparing the draft EIS as they can  
8 close information gaps as well as provide integral  
9 information on the project proposal and alternative  
10 analysis.

11 A site visit to the project area was  
12 conducted on July 23rd with the Washington Department of  
13 Fish and Wildlife, or WDFW. The applicant, EFSEC, and  
14 EFSEC contractor, Golder, participated in the site  
15 visit. The site visit was conducted at the request of  
16 Fish and Wildlife to assist in their review of the  
17 project proposal. The site visit included potential  
18 wildlife corridors, examples of existing wildlife  
19 habitat such as shrub step, grassland, and habitat for  
20 species of concern, as well as canyons and proposed  
21 utility crossings.

22 EFSEC continues their work on SEPA scoping  
23 and will prepare a recommendation to the EFSEC SEPA  
24 responsible official on resource topics to be considered  
25 in the draft environmental impact statement. The

1 scoping decision by the SEPA responsible official will  
2 inform the overall project schedule development.

3 Information received in the application,  
4 responses to data requests, public comments during the  
5 SEPA scoping comment period, and agency comments are  
6 being used to prepare the recommendation to the EFSEC  
7 SEPA responsible official. And once the scope is  
8 determined, the draft EIS, also known as the DEIS, will  
9 be prepared.

10 As stated in the July 20, 2021 Council  
11 update, Staff are anticipating a 30-day public comment  
12 period for the DEIS. Additionally, Staff are  
13 coordinating with Judge Torem to schedule the next steps  
14 for an adjudicative process.

15 Does the Council have any questions?

16 CHAIR DREW: A couple of questions I have.  
17 First of all, you mentioned the data requests. Those --  
18 are those available for the public to see?

19 MS. MOON: Yes, those are on the EFSEC Horse  
20 Heaven Wind Project for the public to see. You go to  
21 the tab that's for SEPA, I believe, and they're on  
22 there. So the -- the request submittals are there as  
23 well as the response to Data Request 1 and the response  
24 to Data Request 2.

25 CHAIR DREW: So I know it's -- it's

1 challenging for people who are interested in the project  
2 to follow along a little bit, but that is one way to  
3 follow along because there's a period of time here where  
4 we really have to delve into all the questions that the  
5 public has raised and the information in the application  
6 in order to prepare draft EIS so the public can comment  
7 on.

8           So all of that work is going on, but one way  
9 the public can follow it is through the data requests,  
10 and then we will have more information when the  
11 SEPA-responsible official, which is Ms. Bumpus, makes a  
12 determination of -- of the information that we'll be  
13 requiring in the draft EIS.

14           Did I misstate anything there, Ms. Moon?

15           MS. MOON: Well, for what Sonia Bumpus will  
16 be doing is determining the resource topics that are  
17 going to go into depth in the draft EIS.

18           CHAIR DREW: Okay.

19           MS. MOON: And the data request certainly  
20 will give an indication of what those topics are most  
21 likely to be.

22           CHAIR DREW: Okay. That is very helpful.  
23 And let's see, did I have any other questions?

24           Are there questions from Councilmembers?

25           MR. LIVINGSTON: Chair Drew, this is Mike

1 Livingston.

2 CHAIR DREW: Yes, go ahead.

3 MR. LIVINGSTON: I don't have a question, I  
4 just want to thank and say I appreciate the opportunity  
5 that's been provided by EFSEC Staff and the project  
6 proponent for WDFW staff to get out there. There's a --  
7 you know, this is a very large project and there's lots  
8 of considerations to be analyzed, particularly related  
9 to wildlife and habitat corridors. So really appreciate  
10 that opportunity that that was provided to the Staff and  
11 just wanted to acknowledge that. So thank you.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Thank you, yes,  
13 there is a lot of work behind the scenes that's  
14 difficult for people to see as -- as they follow along  
15 with this.

16 The other comment I wanted to make is we  
17 talk about the adjudication, which won't take place  
18 until after we receive the draft EIS; is that correct,  
19 Ms. Moon?

20 MS. MOON: So I'm going to have to defer to  
21 Ami Hafkemeyer on adjudication, because to -- to be very  
22 telling, I have not gone through that process as an  
23 EFSEC Staff member, but -- but Ami has, and she's been  
24 very involved in setting that up.

25 CHAIR DREW: Okay.



1 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you, Chair Drew and  
2 Ms. Moon.

3 We are currently working with Judge Torem to  
4 set a schedule and put a plan in place for the  
5 adjudicative process. And based on past experience, we  
6 found that it is most helpful for parties to the  
7 adjudication and the Council for the adjudication to  
8 occur after the draft EIS has come out. And so that is  
9 our intent, but there are activities that need to take  
10 place prior to the adjudication, and so we are working  
11 on scheduling those activities as well with Judge Torem.

12 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you. Thank you  
13 very much. That, I think, helps explain the -- the  
14 process we're in and hopefully for members of the  
15 public. At this point, we don't plan to have a public  
16 meeting in person in the Tri-Cities, but I think that we  
17 very much want to do that. But the appropriate time for  
18 us really will be to hear comments on the draft EIS.

19 So that's really what we're -- we're looking  
20 towards is during the period of time that there is  
21 comment on the draft EIS would be the most productive  
22 time to have a meeting in person in the community, and  
23 we hope very much that the condition of the pandemic  
24 improves so we can do that as well. But that's what  
25 we're anticipating.

1           So I know there have been questions about  
2 that in terms of why we haven't had a public meeting  
3 yet. Certainly it's been because of the -- the COVID  
4 issues, and we do expect to do that as part of the  
5 review of the draft EIS, to have that -- a public  
6 comment period in -- in the community. So that is our  
7 current -- the way we're currently looking at it.

8           Are there any comments or questions from  
9 Councilmembers?

10           The question came in from the public is when  
11 does that draft EIS? It won't be for a few months  
12 because we have yet to complete the final scoping of the  
13 document and then the areas we want thorough review in  
14 the different areas that will be the subject of the EIS.  
15 So that will take a few months. So it will be after  
16 that period of time when the draft EIS -- and we'll  
17 have -- each meeting we should get more information  
18 about when -- that -- to confirm that in the schedule  
19 as -- as we know the amount of work that needs to be  
20 done for the EIS.

21           Ms. Bumpus, is there anything you want to  
22 add or hopefully I've gotten that pretty correct?

23           MS. BUMPUS: I would just -- I think I would  
24 just add that -- or reiterate, rather, that, yeah,  
25 the -- the point, Chair Drew, about as we get more

1 information about what we need to do in the draft EIS,  
2 the -- the prospective schedule will start to jell, it  
3 will start to take shape, and we will have a better idea  
4 over the next several weeks about what that timeframe  
5 will look like.

6 CHAIR DREW: So thank you. Thank you for  
7 all of the people who are interested in this project and  
8 are following it, and we will keep you posted.

9 Okay. Moving on to Goose Prairie Solar  
10 Project update.

11 MR. OVERTON: Thank you. Yeah, this is Kyle  
12 Overton, the site specialist for the Goose Prairie  
13 Project again. Before I get into Goose Prairie, I did  
14 have a correction from my Columbia Solar update.

15 The request for transferring of the SCAs was  
16 for the Camas, Penstemon, and Urtica sites. I said that  
17 Fumaria is one of them. It was Urtica.

18 CHAIR DREW: Oh. Thank you.

19 MR. OVERTON: Yeah. So let's get that out  
20 of the way. For Goose Prairie, during the August 6th  
21 special Council meeting, the Council voted to approve  
22 the January 21st application for expedited processing  
23 for the Goose Prairie Solar Project. So at this time,  
24 the Staff are coordinating with our AG, Jon Thompson, in  
25 preparation of holding a public comment period and

1 meeting, which we are anticipating to have scheduled  
2 before the September Council meeting.

3 Staff are also in the review of the  
4 application materials and are in the early stages of  
5 developing a draft recommendation for the Council's  
6 review. And that's -- that's kind of where we're at at  
7 this point. Are there any questions?

8 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from  
9 the Councilmembers about the Goose Prairie Solar  
10 Project?

11 Hearing none, we will expect to hear further  
12 from you about the scheduling of the public comment  
13 period and public meeting, then.

14 MR. OVERTON: Yes, will do. Thank you.

15 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thanks.

16 That concludes our agenda for today's  
17 meeting. Again, we will have the public informational  
18 meeting on the Columbia Solar Site Certification  
19 Amendment -- Agreement Amendment at 5:00 p.m. today.  
20 For those of you who are interested, please join us  
21 then. Our meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

22 (Adjourned at 2:05 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358